



# PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217

PALMERSTON NORTH

NEWSLETTER

October/November 1985

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Membership Enquiries:	Nanette Clough	ph 61-271
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## ENQUIRES CONCERNING OVERDUE TRIPS

Damienne Eder	Home	71-785	
Nigel Seebeck		89-043	Work 79-129
Peter Clough		61-271	69-099 X 7563
John Barkla:		73-543	89-109
Trevor Bissell:		73-543	74-129

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ALL TRIPS LEAVE FROM THE NO FRILLS CARPARK, FERGUSON STREET. IF YOU WISH TO GO ON A TRIP, YOU MUST ADVISE THE LEADER AT LEAST THREE DAYS IN ADVANCE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY OR WEEKEND TRIP, CONTACT THE LEADER OF THE SCHEDULED TRIP.

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## COMING EVENTS:

### 31 October Form Club Night

John Barkla and Kevin Pearce will show slides on their recent ski mountaineering trips in the Westland and Mount Cook National Parks.

Time: 7.45 p.m.  
Venue: Society of Friends Meeting Rooms1 227 College Street.

### 2 - 3 November Makaroro – North East Ruahines

Into Makaroro Hut to Parks Peak and down the ridge to Makaroro. A chance to explore an area seldom visited by the Club.

Leader: John Barkla ph 73543  
Grade: Medium  
Departs: 7 a.m. Saturday

### 3 November Day Trip to Purity Hut – Ruahines

Leader: Damienne Eder ph 71785  
Grade: Easy!  
Departs: 7.30 a.m. Sunday

### 7 November Committee Meeting

Almost the last chance to get anything done before Christmas. Everyone welcome to attend.

Time: 7.45 p.m.

Venue: 10 Union Street, Palmerston North.

### **9 – 10 November Ruahines, Ngamoko Range**

From Oroua road end to Tunupo, Pohangina Saddle (past Longview Hut), and onto the Ruahine main range, then back via Leon Kinvig, Toka and Tunupo. A favourite tramping area amongst some of our members.

Leader: Catherine Farquhar, ph 80363  
Departs: 6 a.m. Saturday  
Grade: Fit (medium pace).

### **November 14 Informal Club Night**

Peter and Nanette Clough will show slides of their wanders in the Dart and Rees Valleys and also of the Routeburn Track. These routes provide easy travel within the capability of all, and yet pass through some very spectacular country in the Mount Aspiring and Fiordland National Parks.

Time: 7.45 p.m.  
Venue: Society of Friends Meeting Rooms, 227 College Street, Palmerston North.

### **16 - 17 November Golden Crown Ridge Rockslide Biv**

Trevor is keen to offer this trip once again to an area which offers 'good' tramping. The far north eastern Ruahines with wide flat tops incised by steep valleys. We will access the tops from Golden Crown station ridge and visit Rockslide Bivy in the Ikawatea catchment.

Leader: Trevor Bissell, ph 73543  
Grade: Fit  
Departs: Friday 6.30 p.m.

### **16 November Tararuas Blue Range Area**

A wander in from Kiriwhakapa Road end.

Leader: Doug Strachan  
Grade: Easy  
Departs: 7 a.m. Saturday

### **23 November Rockclimbing at Titahi Bay**

An open day for all levels of rockclimbing ability, contact Nigel for details.

Leader: Nigel Seebeck ph 89043  
Grade: open to all  
Departs: 6 a.m. Saturday (I'm sure he could be persuaded to leave at a more civilised hour!)

### **23 - 24 November Tararuas**

Ohau roadend – Te Matawai – Dundas Ridge – Avalanche Flats and out by either

1. Deception Spur and Ohau OR
2. Mangahao – Tauirikohukohu – Waiti Stream

Leader: Catherine Farquhar, ph 80363  
Grade: Fit  
Departs: 6 a.m. Saturday

### **28 November Formal Club Night 'Rambles in the Alps with a camera'**

Bob Creswell will describe some of his early exploits in the mountains. Club members will already have seen slides taken by Bob during a climb of Honokawa, a very rugged and isolated peak in the Raukumara Range.

Time: 7.45 p.m.  
Venue: Society of Friends Meeting Rooms, 227 College Street, Palmerston North.

### **30 November Hikurangi Range (Northern Ruahines)**

Up to Hikurangi Range Hut - Kauwhata River, with a possible diversion to Mokai Patea.

Leader: Trevor Bissell, ph 73543  
Departs: 6 a.m. Saturday  
Grade: Fit

### **30 November - 1 December Wanganui Wanderings**

This trip involves principally a circuit on the Wanganui Skyline Walk over mixed farmland and bush. There's scope for a barbecue and camp beside the Wanganui River on Saturday night, followed by an easy structured stroll on Sunday.

Leader: Peter Clough, ph 61271

Grade: Medium  
Departs: 7 a.m. Saturday

### **7 - 8 December Christmas at Rangii!!!**

Keep this weekend free for the end of the year party at Rangii, no excuses for being absent as you're being given plenty of notice. There have been suggestions from a few people that the dinner be held on the Saturday night rather than midday Sunday, so that the preparation and enjoyment of the meal can be less hurried. More details next newsletter! Watch this space!

### **11 December Annual Dine and Dance**

If you survive Rangii, how about food and exercise of a different type, in more civilised surroundings. The venue is Harrods, 31 Margaret Street, Palmerston North. The time is 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 11 December. A maximum of 30 places are available for the Club so be in early. Tickets are available from Nigel Seebeck (phone 89043 for details). The ticket price is \$21.00 per person (including corkage and band), but bring your own liquid refreshment.

### **NOTICES:**

Nothing much to report this month other than:

1/ Resubscribing Members:  
Arthur and Liz Todd, 2 Heayns Place, Feilding

### **2/ Wellington District Walkway Committee**

Peter Clough has been officially appointed to this committee, which advises the Walkways Commission on walkways in this region (there wasn't much competition!) If you have any constructive observations or comments on Walkways, he's the man to see.

3/ A rather unusual, unscheduled night trip featuring four trampers, a glider and countless eels! Read on ..... !

### **TRIP REPORTS:**

#### **14 - 15 September Kaimanawa Weekend**

The road to the start of the new Umukarikari track was signposted (and this time found without difficulty). After about an hour and a half of steady climbing up the zig-zagging track we reached the open tops. We had lunch on the main ridge top. Big black clouds lurked almost everywhere and were not much higher than we were. Just before the final climb to Umukarikari we dropped our packs and continued to the summit. The odd patch of snow was present but was insignificant in comparison to the heavy coatings on the ranges exposed to the south easterly (Kaweka, Ruahines etc.)! Since we had completed our objective for the day, a couple of hours were spent carrying out a reconnaissance for the optimum campsite. The tent was erected on an excellent spot about 50 m down a gully just south of where the track finally rises up a scree slope to Umukarikari. In the evening the cloud dispersed and by morning the tent and ground were covered with a good coating of frost. With an early start, we headed south along the range towards Urchin. To get there, the one time track passes through about 2 miles of bush which had largely been blown over. After about 2½ hours of up, down, over, through and under, we emerged once again on easy ground and rapidly got to the trig on Urchin. Here we met two retired couples from Auckland who were on a couple of weeks' trip exploring the North Island back country.

Once again we re-entered the bush but this time on a track. When we reached the road we were not quite sure where we were because of the major changes during and since the completion of the underground Rangipo power station, and our 1972 edition map. However after three quarters of an hour of fast walking we reached the main road, and in another fifteen minutes reached the car. We drove along to the power-house for lunch. Due to an oversight by the driver, the return trip as far as Waiouru was subject to the great danger of running out of petrol.

Team; Peter Wiles, Doug Strachan. P.S. One of the very few weekend trips undertaken where not only did the feet stay dry but the boots remained free of mud.

#### **15 - 22 September Ski Mountaineering Westland**

An expensive though spectacular flight from Mt Cook airport soon had us deposited high on the Fox Glacier neve beneath Douglas and Haidinger. With packs in the 30 - 36 kg class it was a laborious 20 minute ski traverse to the new Pioneer Hut. Our arrival seemed to prompt one group to leave for the West Coast immediately. With a sunny afternoon still ahead of us we (minus Kevin with a blister injury) skinned up to Pioneer Pass on the main divide and familiarised

ourselves with the general layout of this side of the Divide. Then at last a glorious, though somewhat restrained, ski back to the hut.

The next morning we were back up to Pioneer Pass, this time with sights on Haast via a prominent ice gully. A troublesome schrund and two direct hits by falling ice convinced us to look at something less dangerous. A short climb on to Grey Peak gave superb views and a few ideas for further climbs. This time we skied down and around to beneath Tasman for a recce.

A 3 a.m. rise on Tuesday enabled us all to leave at 4 a.m. and skin towards Tasman. Part way around Mike suddenly discovered a hidden crevasse and fell 15 metres before being stopped by a soft snow bridge. By the time he was safely hauled up it was almost light enough to see and Mike and Kevin decided to return to the hut. Phil and John continued to the icefall beneath Marcel Col before leaving skis. We met a strong cold wind on Marcel Col and cramponed quickly on to a heavily corniced Lendenfeld. A great vantage point to watch two friends tackling Tasman's icy north shoulder. Once back to the skis it was a short trip back to the hut. Later we heard of Mike and Kevin's attempt on Glacier Peak.

Wednesday - lots of crud, some snow. A pleasant day eating and sleeping.

It was fine again on Thursday, although a few centimetres of fresh snow plastered all the peaks. We skied into the Explorer Glacier and skinned on to West Hoe Pass overlooking the Franz Josef neve. What we expected to be a short climb of Triad Peak took much longer than anticipated but was worth the effort. We then skinned along the Fritz Range to Von Bulow – a fine vantage point. An impressive snow couloir running the height of Halcombe Peak prompted Phil and John to do a late afternoon climb before skiing back to the hut via Newton Pass.

Yet another fine day saw us skinning to the base of Haidinger. Halfway up the West Face Kevin and Mike decided to descend for a day's skiing while John and Phil continued to the summit and descended the South Ridge. Soft snow caused crampons to ball up terribly and it was not until sunset that we skied back to the hut.

With time up on Saturday we shouldered heavy packs and made good time over West Hoe Pass and the Franz Josef neve to Graham Saddle, the last couple of hours in intense heat. We skied the upper Rudolf before carrying skis down steep soft slopes next to the icefall. On skis again for the lower glacier we finally reached the Tasman Glacier and De La Beche Hut after an exhausting day.

Our last day involved a gentle glide down the easy angled Tasman Glacier until the dirty moraine forced us back on foot. Several tedious hours later we emerged at the top of Garbage Gully leaving only a grind to Husky Flat and an A.G.L. bus.

A most enjoyable eight days in an area where one could spend three times as long and still not be satiated. We were: John Barkla, Phil Brady, Mike Freeman and Kevin Pearce.

### **29 September Mangahao**

With the dams at only half capacity we wandered around the water's edge before striking the track up the Mangahao River. A few showers chased us along to Harris Creek Hut for an early lunch before we back tracked to travel up Dick Creek. After some discussion over how many side streams we had passed, and a late lunch, we took to the bush and found ourselves a little geographically embarrassed. A quick correction had us on the saddle with Baber Creek. The creek itself was quite fast travel and we were back at the cars by late afternoon.

We were; Dave Barker, John Barkla, Catherine Farquhar, Cheryl Peters.

### **29 - 30 September The Glider Search and Rescue**

Typically, just when you were relaxing after a long day, the call comes through – 'This one's for real'. About three hours later, at 11 p.m., four of us, with a good supply of batteries, were rattling along in the gloom to Waitewaewae Hut. After a gruesome brew of army coffee, sugar and lumps of milk powder, we had an early morning smoko of spaghetti and sausages – fresh from the can!

At about 4.30 a.m. we headed up the Otaki River carrying out our search task, to look for a glider pilot and associated glider. Apart from one false start when Philip spotted a derelict hut, we methodically criss-crossed the river calling and whistling. (Note – those with sensitive anatomical features should postpone any river trips for a few months).

Just after we turned off the torches and rounded a large bend in the river we heard a quiet dull thudding. We shouted and whistled, the thudding got louder and faster. We crashed through the bush, tripping and falling, then suddenly there

it was - the glider. It was tilted over with one wing touching the canopy. The paraplegic pilot seemed in good spirits, despite some from a broken collarbone and ribs.

We contacted base and half an hour later a chopper arrived. A quick stretcher carry and he was up and away. We were all thrilled to have such a quick successful end to the search. The search organisation went extremely smoothly and I have nothing but praise for the police, the seven other teams and everyone that helped with various aspects of the search.

We were; John Barkla, Philip Budding, Mike Freeman and John Roberts.

M.C.F.

### **October 5 - 6 Eastern Ruahines (My maiden tramp)**

Leaving 'base camp', (i.e. home) the three of us left information as to our intentions.

Wakarara Base

Sparrowhawk Biv. via Gold Hut

Back via Colenso Spur

As we approached my guides threatened that they intended to climb up to the top of that rugged looking range amongst all that snow. I shivered and was glad of my good sleeping bag.

We set off from the Old Mill and stepped reluctantly into the shallow river, and followed it upstream to the first fork. From there we headed south along Gold Creek. As the valley closed in we began to see that the slips had beaten us to it. One of these had formed a nice swimming hole, come on summer.

Eventually we came to another tributary which looked more like God had run his fist down the valley in frustration. It was just beyond there that we stopped for lunch before continuing west up the valley of destruction. After more than an hour at it, we decided we had missed the track and didn't have enough time so we returned to the hut to regroup and brew the tea.

The next morning we eventually found an established track up onto a saddle, up to a trig station and down the long spur on the east side of Gold Creek back to the Rakaia (I mean the Makaroro River) and the car, a sauna and a good sleep with dreams of the next tramp.

We were: Linda and Daryl Rowan and Chris Morton.